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SOURCE Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao.

GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE WARNS CADRES AGAINST "FABRICATED REPORTS;"
CHINESE FAMILY SYSTEM OBSTRUCTS LAND REFORM

In the 20 February 1952 issue of the Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, the Central-South China Bureau of the Central Committee, Chinese Communist Party, issued a directive to party organs and members cautioning them to be on the alert for any "fabricated reports" and against the practice of "reporting only the favorable and not the unfavorable." The practice of reporting only the favorable and not the unfavorable, it is said, was first uncovered during a reinvestigation of the land-reform program in Ma-ch'i-ho Hsiang, Pai-kao Ch'u, Ma-ch'eng Hsien, Hupeh, by the reinvestigation team of the Policy Research Office, Hupeh Provincial Party Committee. It is interesting to note that in the reinvestigation team's report, which was printed in this same issue of the paper in conjunction with the above-mentioned directive, that one of the difficulties in the implementation of the land-reform program was revealed as arising from the indigenous family system of China.

The following is a translation of the directive issued by the Central-South China Bureau and excerpts of pertinent parts of the report prepared by the reinvestigation team which show how the family tie-up has impeded the smooth enforcement of the land-reform program in this area.

Directive of the Central-South China Bureau

A report made by the Hupeh Provincial Party Committee showed that during a reinvestigation of the land-reform program in Ma-ch'i-ho Hsiang, Ma-ch'eng Hsien, the practice of reporting "only the favorable and not the unfavorable" was uncovered. Since this is the first instance of such a practice in this area, this directive is issued to caution all comrades to be on the alert against such practices.

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Long ago, some cadres in Kwangtung, Hupeh, and other areas were found guilty of fabricating their reports. At that time, we advised "manifest honesty and conscientiousness and oppose the habit of deceiving the superiors and cheating the subordinates." We further stressed that the practice of fabricating reports and of reporting only the favorable and not the unfavorable is nonorganizational and nondisciplinary; that hiding facts from the superiors is an evil practice which not only cheats the superiors but the people as well. If these practices are not eliminated, there is no basis for us to start discussing how our work can be advanced and how it can thoroughly permeate the area. The malpractice uncovered in Ma-ch'i-ho Hsiang clearly proves these points.

All guidance organs and leaders must become alarmed over all superfluous, fabricated "flowery" reports and must examine the work progress and the time and energy spent by the personnel. They must investigate, in a number of hsiang, the work carried out and must launch a judicial investigation of the problems and the result of the work undertaken. They must use their own judgment and not be guided by what the others are saying. All work cadres actively participating in the work must examine their own work and habits to see that they are not committing the error of making fabricated reports. All persons guilty of these practices must immediately undertake criticism and self-criticism.

Any person who is guilty of making fabricated reports must be investigated immediately and the result of the investigation by published by the higher authorities. Training must also be expanded.

[Signed] Central-South China Bureau

Report Prepared by the Reinvestigation Team

Ma-ch'i-ho Hsiang was one of the points where land-reform reinvestigation was conducted last year. According to the report submitted by Wang Tsu-kuang, the progress made in land reform in this hsiang was very satisfactory. The reinvestigation which we undertook, however, showed that there were many discrepancies between his report and the actual facts. It might be said generally that some problems were solved and some experiences were gained; nevertheless, the work undertaken was very rudimentary and in many cases was very carelessly done. Moreover, many important problems were not properly solved and the work completed was found to be very unsatisfactory.

On the surface, it appeared that the land-reform movement was launched with great fervor and much progress was achieved in advancing the ideological thinking of the farmers; in reality, however, reinvestigation revealed that hardly any progress was made.

The whole hsiang is made up of some 730 families with a total population of about 3,200. Despite the land-reform movement launched and reinvestigation subsequently undertaken, three powerful feudalistic powers in the three villages of Chu-chia-t'ao (about 100 families), Chu-chai-chai (about 80 families) and I-chia-ta-wan were not liquidated. It might be added that about 80 percent of the total population in the hsiang goes by the family name of Chu. The whole hsiang is divided administratively into the upper, middle, and lower villages, each with its own government. In the upper and middle villages, there are very few families with a different family name, while more than half of the families in the lower village goes by the family name Chu. In I-chia-ho-k'an, there are more than 40 families with the family name I. All families having a different surname in these areas have suffered the oppression and fleecing of landlords, hsiang chiefs, and pao chiefs with the name of Chu. The masses at I-chia-ho-k'an said: "Before the liberation, six hsiang chiefs with the name

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of Chu not only conscripted us as coolies but collected grain. When a son with the surname of Chu went to a nearby hsien school our boys were conscripted to act as carriage bearers to transport him."

The response of the masses who had suffered under the oppression of these village titans to the land-reform movement was very good since they are the backbone of our struggle; however, very few hired hands and poor farmers with the surname Chu rose up and enthusiastically supported this movement.

On the surface, it appears that the illegal landlords were all liquidated. Is this a fact? In addition to Wang and the hsiang chief, a chairman /no position given/ had the following comment to make during the work: "During the movement against the illegal landlords, the masses of Chu-chia-t'ao did not speak up; some even defended them." At the time we visited this area, we questioned the people with regard to the crimes and oppression committed by the puppet chief Chu but the people actually eulogize Chu and his actions. These few examples clearly show the degree of progress made in this area.

In the land-reform movement which was launched in this area, there were some backward farmers who wholeheartedly supported the movement. For the most part, these were the backward farmers who had no contacts with the landlord class. The number of backward farmers who had contacts with the landlords and who supported the land-reform movement was exceedingly small. Some of these farmers are still maintaining close liaison with them. At the time of reinvestigation, it is said that there were still some 15 backward farmers who had not supported the movement.

According to a report submitted by Wang and the hsiang chief, great progress was made in uniting the masses democratically. Our survey has shown that there was no planned method of educating the masses toward this goal, guidance given to the work cadres was poor and, on the whole, everything was not carried out satisfactorily.

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